

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 3631

EXDIS

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TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH REMO GASPARI (DC)

SUMMARY: IN MARCH 11 CONVERSATION WITH DC SECRETARIAT MEMBER REMO GASPARI, I OBTAINED A FULL SUMMARY OF HIS VIEWS ON THE ITALIAN INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION. GASPARI EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR THE US TO MAKE CLEAR ITS CONTINUED INTEREST IN ITALY AND ITS DESIRE TO HELP IN APPROPRIATE WAYS TO KEEP THE COUNTRY ON A DEMOCRATIC COURSE. GASPARI INDICATED HIS BELIEF THAT CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY SECRETARY FANFANI IS IN JCRM CONTROL OF THE DC PARTY AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE PARTY WOULD NOT LOSE MORE THAN THREE PERCENT OF THE VOTE IN THE JUNE REGIONAL ELECTIONS. GASPARI PREDICTED THAT THE MARCH 13 CENTER-LEFT SUMMIT MEETING WOULD NOT RPT NOT PROVOKE A GOVERNMENT CRISIS. END SUMMARY

1. IN MARCH 11 LUNCHEON CONVERSATION WITH CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY PARLIAMENTARY DEPUTY AND DC SECRETARIAT MEMBER REMO GASPARI I SOUGHT HIS VIEWS ON THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION ON THE EVE OF THE IMPORTANT CENTER-LEFT PARTY SUMMIT MEETING ON THE LAW AND ORDER ISSUE. GASPARI WAS SANGUINE THAT THE FOUR-PARTY SUMMIT WOULD NOT RPT NOT PROVOKE A CRISIS. HE FELT THAT THE COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI) IS AGAINST A GOVERNMENT CRISIS AT THIS POINT AND THEREFORE IS ACTING AS A RESTRAINING INFLUENCE ON ELEMENTS IN THE SOCIALIST PARTY (ESPECIALLY THE MANCINI FORCES) WHO MIGHT FAVOR A CRISIS.

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2. GASPARI TOLD ME THAT HE SEES DC PARTY SECRETARY FANFANI AS HAVING A RATHER SOLID BACKING WITHIN THE DC AT THIS TIME. FANFANI SHOULD THUS BE ABLE TO COUNT ON GOOD SUPPORT FOR THE DC ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN LEADING TO THE JUNE REGIONAL ELECTIONS AND THEREBY HOLD DC LOSSES TO NOT MORE THAN ABOUT 3 PERCENT. GASPARI HAS A POOR VIEW OF (FOREIGN MINISTER) MARIANO RUMOR WHO HE BELIEVES HAS LOST STRENGTH IN HIS PARTY FACTION AND THEREFORE IS OVERLY ANXIOUS TO PLAY UP TO THE PARTY LEFT WING. HE SAID THAT RUMOR'S STRENGTH IS NOW ONLY ABOUT 16 PERCENT OF THE DC PARTY IN HIS HOME AREA OF VICENZA. GASPARI CLEARLY INDICATED HIS PRESENT COMPETITIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH FORMER MINISTER TAVIANI BY STATING THAT HE HAD MANAGED TO WIN OVER MUCH OF TAVIANI'S FOLLOWING WITHIN THE PARTY.

3. GASPARI EXPRESSED THE FEAT THAT, EVEN THOUGH DC LOSSES MAY BE LIMITED IN THE REGIONAL ELECTIONS, LIGURIA AND THE MARCHE REGIONS MAY NEVERTHELESS END UP WITH A LEFT WING (COMMUNIST-SOCIALIST) MAJORITY. (NOTE: TO WIN A MAJORITY AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL IN LIGURIA OR MARCH THE PCI-PSI COMBINED WOULD HAVE TO GAIN ABOUT 8 PERCENT IN THE REGIONAL ELECTIONS. IN GENOA PROVINCE, ON THE OTHER HAND, A LESS THAN 6 PERCENT LEFT-WING GAIN WOULD GIVE THE PCI-PSI COMBINED MORE THAN HALF OF THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL SEATS.)

4. GASPARI EMPHASIZED HIS BELIEF THAT THE US MUST MAKE CRYSTAL CLEAR TO ITALIAN LEADERS LIKE MORO AND RUMOR ITS CONTINUED INTEREST AND SUPPORT FOR AN ECONOMICALLY PROSPEROUS AND DEMOCRATIC ITALY. HE FEARS THAT MANY ITALIANS SEE THE US INTEREST IN ITALY AS WEAKENING. HE EXPRESSED PESSIMISM THAT THE NEXT 18 MONTHS MAY SEE A COMMUNIST ENTRY INTO GOVERNMENT UNLESS COUNTERVAILING FORCES DEVELOP WHICH CAN HEAD THIS OFF. IN THIS CONNECTION, GASPARI ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO LABOR DEVELOPMENTS AND EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR SCALIA (CISL) AND VANNI (UIL) AND THEIR EFFORTS TO SLOW DOWN THE MARCH TOWARD LABOR UNION UNIFICATION UNDER PREDOMINATE COMMUNIST INFLUENCE. GASPARI BELIEVES THAT "SOMETHING MUST BE DONE" IN THE LABOR FIELD WITHIN THE NEXT MONTH IF IT IS TO BE DONE AT ALL. VOLPE

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